

Frio and Castro creeks. The draws are usually dry, but there is underground water, and small surface lakes are found. Soils are sandy loam and black; wheat and feedstuffs are the principal crops, but vegetables are grown by irrigation for local use. Raising of Hereford cattle is the principal industry with dairy cattle becoming increasingly important and some hogs and poultry being grown commercially.

The Castro County area may have been crossed by such Spanish explorers as Francisco Vásquez de Coronado and Juan de Oñate.<sup>99</sup> In what was called the "Great American Desert," the region was long considered too arid for settlement. After William Rufus Shafter<sup>97</sup> led the expedition which in 1875 ended Indian domination on the Staked Plains, W. C. Dimmitt, John S. Summerfield, and T. W. Hart became the first settlers in the area. County towns and communities bear their names, the town of Dimmitt being designated as the county seat when the county was organized in 1891.

The northwest corner of the county is crossed by the Pecos and Northern Texas Railway, and the Fort Worth and Denver South Plains connects Dimmitt with Plainview. County population was 4,631 in 1940 and 5,402 in 1950.

**Castro Creek.** Castro Creek rises in northeastern Parmer County and flows northeast across the northwestern corner of Castro County and into southeastern Deaf Smith County, where it drains into Tierra Blanca Creek near the town of Hereford.

**Castro's Colony.** Henri Castro,<sup>97</sup> an empresario of the Texas Republic, on February 15, 1842, received contracts for two grants of land on which he was to establish six hundred families. One grant lay west of San Antonio; the other was along the Rio Grande between Camargo and El Sal del Rey. Castro recruited his colonists in France, particularly in Alsace. On September 1, 1844, he left San Antonio for his land grant beyond the Medina River with his first thirty-five colonists. On September 3 the group reached its destination and began building homes. On September 12 an election was held for two justices of the peace and a constable, and the name of Castroville was adopted for the settlement. During the colony's first year, 358 headrights were issued, and 485 families and 457 single men were introduced for a total of 1,34 settlers. The colony suffered from Indian depredations, cholera, and the drought of 1848; but population increased sufficiently for the creation of Medina County in 1848. The present towns of Castroville, D'Hanis, Quihi, and Vandenberg were founded by the colonists.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Audrey Garrett Goldthorp, *Castro's Colony* (M.A. thesis, University of Texas, 1928); Julia Nott Waugh, *Castro-Ville and Henry Castro, Empresario* (1934).

*Curtis Bishop*

**Castroville, Texas.** Castroville, founded by Henri Castro<sup>97</sup> on September 3, 1844, is in eastern Medina County twenty-five miles west of San Antonio. Chief settlement of Castro's Colony,<sup>97</sup> the town was surveyed by Henry James; the names of its streets, fifteen varas wide, honored Castro's relatives and friends and the capitals of Europe. The first settlers had to contend with hostile weather, epidemics, and Indians, but the town grew. In 1853 Castro donated two lots for the site of the new courthouse, which when completed served as a school in 1855. A rock dam, still in-

tact in 1945, was built in 1854 to furnish power for a gristmill. Other industries included a sawmill, cypress shingle mill, and later a cotton gin.

The Civil War affected Castroville slightly; her citizens were not zealous Confederates. Wagon trains loaded with freight stopped overnight on their way to Mexico, and the town thrived.

In 1880 the Southern Pacific Railroad, extending its line to the west, passed south of Castroville because the town refused to grant a bonus; Castroville lost the county seat to Hondo in 1892, and in 1895 the Mother-House of the Sisters of Divine Providence, which had been established in Castroville in 1862, moved its headquarters to San Antonio.

Points of interest in 1950 included pioneer rock houses, the St. Louis Church (1869), and the Moye Military School for Boys, conducted by the Sisters of Divine Providence, who repurchased their original property. Population in 1940 was 865.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Julia Nott Waugh, *Castro-Ville and Henry Castro, Empresario* (1934); *Memoirs of Fifty Years' Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence* (1916).

*Ruth Curry Lawler*

**Cat Creek.** At least two Texas streams are known as Cat Creek. Arranged in alphabetical order according to the counties in which they head, they are:

(1) Cat Creek, an intermittent stream rising in central Lipscomb County and flowing south about four miles into Wolf Creek approximately two miles east of the town of Lipscomb.

(2) Cat Creek, a tributary of Yellow Bayou in northern Newton County.

**Cat Spring, Texas.** Cat Spring, southwest of Bellville on the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad in Austin County, was settled by a group of German immigrants in 1844. Robert Kleberg<sup>97</sup> was known as the founder of the village. The name was given when Rudolf von Roeder's son shot and killed a Mexican puma at the spring on their farm. The first agricultural society in Texas was organized at Cat Spring, which, in 1946, had a population of about five hundred.

*Julia Dinkins*

**Catarina, Texas.** Catarina, in southern Dimmit County on a branch of the International-Great Northern Railroad, was a part of the Catarina Ranch, named for a Mexican woman killed by Indians at a spot near the present settlement. In 1940 Catarina, a shipping point for a vegetable and truck farming area, had seven stores and a population of 403.

**Catarina Creek.** Catarina Creek rises in southern Dimmit County and flows northeast about four miles into San Roque Creek. Four and one-half miles southeast of the town of Catarina, the creek is dammed to form a lake with a capacity of 3,500 acre-feet. The reservoir, owned by R. W. Briggs, is used for irrigation.

**Catfish Bayou.** Catfish Bayou, also known as Catfish Creek, rises in south central Henderson County and flows southwest about twenty-six miles to empty into the Trinity River in western Anderson County.

**Catfish Creek.** Catfish Creek, an intermittent stream, rises in east central Cottle County and drains to the north to empty into the Pease River.

**Cathedral Mountain.** At least three Texas elevations are known as Cathedral Mountain. Arranged in alphabetical order according to the counties in which they are located, they are:

## **EXHIBIT H**

3/10/87  
J. L. ...

FACT SHEET  
CITY OF CASTROVILLE

Population: 2,150 (census 1990)

AREA: 2.2 square miles

ALTITUDE: 987 **feet average** elevation

CLIMATE:

Temperature average 80

Average rainfall 31.0 inches

Form of Government: General Law city

Recreation: Castroville Regional Park, olympic-size pool, golf course 14 miles away.

Service Clubs: Lions Club, Moose Lodge, VFW, American Legion, religious organization

Castroville Chamber of Commerce: 200 members, Box 572, 802 London St., Castroville

Schools: Medina Valley Independent School District - Elementary, Intermediate, Junior High and Senior High Schools. Also St. Louis Catholic School, Pre-kindergarden, Kindergarden, first, second & third grades.

Universities: not applicable

Churches: Seven denominations

Sister City relationship history and activities:

Keith, Australia, and Castroville, Texas, formally became Sister Cities on October 12, 1986. Castroville and Keith were chosen, having much in common. Both are farming and ranching communities; small-town populations (Castroville is 2150); very good schools; and warm, friendly, hard-working people.

The twinning ceremony was held at the Keith Show (County Fair in Texas). Mayor Virginia Suehs presented the City of Castroville Flag and the Texas State Flag to the Chairman of the Show, Beverly Harris. Mayor Suehs, her husband, Charles; Clint and Vera Bourquin; Clarence and Mary Lou Krus; and Maurice and Irene DeCock were Castroville's goodwill ambassadors.

We hope the two towns will continue the beautiful relationship for years to come.

Contact address for Sister City activities:

Charles & Virginia Suehs  
613 Washington  
Castroville, TX 78009

## **EXHIBIT I**

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Community Profile For: CASTROVILLE Date Reported: 07-MAY-93  
 County: MEDINA State: TEXAS Print Date: 11-MAY-93  
 \*\*\*\*\*

## LOCATION

=====

Nearest MSA:	SAN ANTONIO MSA	Distance (Miles):	12
Nearest Interstate:	I.H. 35	Distance (Miles):	12.4
Nearest Major Hwy:	U.S.HWY. 90	Distance (Miles):	0
TDOC Region Name:	SOUTH TEXAS	Average Elevation:	987
Sq. Miles In City:	2.2	Sq. Miles In Cnty:	1331

## POPULATION

=====

CITY POPULATION	YEAR	CNTY POPULATION	YEAR
2,159	1990	27,312	1990
1,821	1980	23,164	1980
1,893	1970	20,249	1970

Latest City Population Estimate: 2,159  
 Date Estimated: 01-JAN-90

## CLIMATE

=====

	Annual	January	July
Temperature Average:	80	40	90
Average Rainfall (Inches):	33	Average Snowfall (Inches): 0	
Prevailing Wind Direction:	SOUTHEAST		

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

=====

Hotels:	0	Rooms:	N/A	
Motels:	3	Rooms:	67	
Hospitals:	0	Beds:	N/A	Doctors: 1
Clinics:	0	Beds:	N/A	Dentists: 2
Number Of Churches:	7			

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Type	Number
LANDMARK INN HISTOR. SITE	1
PARK AND POOL	1
SOFTBALL PARK	1

## EDUCATION

=====

Number Of School Districts In County: 5  
 Major ISD In The City: MEDINA VALLEY I.S.D.  
 Total Enrollment: 2025  
 Teachers Elementary: 56 Secondary: 60 Voc Sp.Ed: 18  
 Number Of Schools In the District: 4  
 Total 12th Grade Enrollment: 110 Average SAT Score: 854  
 Number Of Private / Parochial Schools: 1  
 Number Of Colleges (State / Private) w/in 30 miles: 6  
 Number Of Public Library Volumes: 10000

G O V E R N M E N T

=====

Type Of Government:	MAYOR-COUNCIL		
Police Department Personnel Full Time:	4		
Fire Department Personnel Full Time:	0	Volunteers:	45
Pieces Of Equipment:	4	Fire Insurance Key Rate (\$):	.49
Service Performed Outside City Limits:	YES		
City Industrial Team:	NO	Economic Development Dept:	NO
Industrial Development Found.:	YES	Planning Commission:	YES
Chamber Of Commerce:	YES	Industrial Development Corp.:	NO
Member Council Of Govts:	YES	Zoning Regulations:	YES

T R A N S P O R T A T I O N

=====

Railroads  
NONE LISTED

Service Available: Piggyback? NO Switching? NO

Motor Freight Carriers  
HBB ENTERPRISES  
MISTLETOE EXPRESS  
YELLOW FREIGHT SYSTEM  
SOUTHWESTERN MOTOR TRANS.

Number Of Motor Freight Carrier Terminals In The City: 0  
Total Number Of Motor Freight Carriers In The City: 4

Air  
Nearest Airport: CASTROVILLE MUN. AIRPORT  
Runway Length (Ft.): 4998 Runway Surface: PAVEMENT  
Nearest Airport With Commercial Service: SAN ANTONIO INTERNATIONAL  
Distance (miles): 40

Waterway  
Nearest Deepwater Port: PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
Channel Depth (Feet): 40 Distance (Miles): 155

Bus Services Available  
KERRVILLE BUS LINES

Parcel Services Available  
BUS SERVICES  
UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Community Profile For: CASTROVILLE PAGE 3  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 U T I L I T I E S  
 =====

Electricity Distributors  
 CASTROVILLE UTILITY SYST.  
 MEDINA ELECTRIC COOP.INC.

Water Sources  
 CITY OF CASTROVILLE

Maximum Daily Capacity (MGPD):	.01	Peak Load (MGPD):	.01
Overhead Storage (MG):	N/A	Ground Storage (MG):	.5
\$ Per 1000 Gal. over Basic Rate:	.75		

Sewer  
 Type Of Treatment Plant: OXIDATION DITCH  
 Capacity (MGPD): .37 Present Load (%): 66  
 Storm Sewer: NO Coverage (%): N/A  
 Sanitary Sewer: YES Coverage (%): N/A  
 \$ Per 1000 Gal. over Basic Rate: 1.5  
 Type Of Solid Waste Disposal: LANDFILL/INCINERATION

Natural Gas Distributors  
 CASTROVILLE UTILITY SYST.  
 PETROLANE

C O M M U N I C A T I O N  
 =====

Newspapers In City Daily: 0 Weekly: 1  
 Largest Newspaper In City: CASTROVILLE NEWS BULLETIN Circulation: 2200  
 Radio Stations In City: 0 Television Stations: 0  
 Cable TV Available: YES Telephone Service: SOUTHWESTERN BELL TEL.CO.

F I N A N C I A L I N S T I T U T I O N S  
 =====

Banks:	3	Total Bank Deposits: (\$)	83,305,876
Savings And Loans:	0	Savings And Loan Deposits: (\$)	N/A

I N D U S T R I A L P R O P E R T I E S A V A I L A B L E  
 =====

Property Name	Acres	Price Low (\$)	Range High (\$)
GENNY TSCHIRHART, REALTY	2	7000	10000
GENE SUEHS ENTERPRISES	100	2000	3000

# T A X E S

=====

Real Property	Rate/\$100	Assessment Ratio
City:	.2099	100%
County:	.4549	100%
School:	1.21	100%
Total Effective Tax Rate:		.1484
City Retail Sales Tax (%):		1
State:		
State Corporate Income Tax:		NONE
State Individual Income Tax:		NONE
State Retail Sales Tax (%):		6.25
State Gasoline Tax: (Cents/Gal.)		.2
Franchise Tax	: The greater of either .25 percent on net taxable capital assets, or 4.5 percent on net taxable earned surplus.	

# L A B O R A N A L Y S I S

=====

Radius Of Labor Drawing Area (Miles):	30	
Estimated Labor Unemployed - Male:	65	Female: 48
Total Annual High School Graduates:	108	
Number Of Work Stoppages In Last Five Years:	0	
Wage And/Or Labor Survey Available:	NO	
Latest County Unemployment Rate:	5.1	
Manufacturing Workers In Unions (%):	N/A	
UNION SECURITY CONTRACTS ARE PROHIBITED.		

# M A J O R E M P L O Y E R S

=====

Employer Name	Product	Male	Female	Estb	Union %
MEDINA VALLEY I.S.D.	EDUCATION	67	192	1960	0
SAMMY'S RESTAUR. & BAKERY	FOOD	23	61	1948	0
CITY OF CASTROVILLE	MUNICIPALITY	20	8	1948	0
SUPER S	GROCERIES	14	14	1920	0
ROYCE GROFF OIL COMPANY	PETROLEUM	18	21	1981	0
MEDINA VALLEY CARE CENTER	NURSING HOME	10	52	1992	0
CASTROVILLE STATE BANK	FINANCIAL	3	11	1959	0
PRECINCT 2, MEDINA COUNTY	COUNTY MANAGMT.	7	3	N/A	0
GRIGGS CONSTRUCTION CO.	BUILDING	12	1	1974	0
COMMUNITY NATIONAL BANK	FINANCIAL	1	3	1987	0

\* - Included in Male Total

# F O R A D D I T I O N A L I N F O R M A T I O N

=====

Name:	MS. ESTELLA KIERCE
Title:	PRESIDENT
Organization:	CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Address:	P.O. BOX 572
City:	CASTROVILLE, TEXAS 78009
Telephone:	210 - 538 - 3142



## **EXHIBIT J**

STO. ANTONIO



## **EXHIBIT K**

  
**CASTROVILLE**  
Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. BOX 572  
802 LONDON STREET  
CASTROVILLE, TEXAS 78009  
(210) 538-3142

### Accommodations

**Alsatian Inn, Best Western**  
1650 Hwy 90 W  
538-2262

**Castroville's First  
Bed & Breakfast Registry**  
209 Hwy 90 W  
538-9622  
1-800-329-9622

**Haby Settlement Inn**  
At Rio Medina  
7 miles north of Castroville on F.M. 471  
(Rio Medina Store)  
538-2441

**Henri Castro Guesthouse, B & B**  
1109 Fiorella  
931-3588 (weekends & evenings,  
5:00-10:00 p.m.)  
931-9602 (weekdays 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

**Ima's Bed & Breakfast**  
509 Hwy 90 W  
538-3312 or 538-2844

**Landmark Inn**  
(State Historic Site)  
402 Florence  
931-2133  
Thurs. through Mon., 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

~~**Mary M. Guesthouse**  
1306 Fiorella  
931-9602 or 931-3597~~

**Medina Valley Inn**  
Hwy 90 at F.M. 471  
538-2286

**Regional Park**  
RV spaces, contact City Hall  
538-2224

**Swan & Railway Country Inn**  
At LaCoste, 5 miles southeast of  
Castroville on F.M. 471  
762-3742

### Restaurants

**Alsatian Restaurant**  
403 Angelo St.  
Daily lunch 11:00-2:30 p.m.  
Dinner Thurs. - Sun. 5:00-9:00 p.m.  
931-3260

**Britsch's Restaurant**  
At the Alsatian Inn  
1650 Hwy 90 W  
931-9451  
6:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**Chantilly Restaurant**  
309 Lafayette  
538-9531  
Lunch Tues. - Sat. 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.,  
Sun 'til 3:00 p.m.  
Dinner Thurs. - Sat. 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

**Cora's Place**  
3 miles north of Castroville on F.M. 471  
538-9590  
Thurs. - Sun. 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

**Dairy Queen**  
1102 Hwy 90 W  
538-3141  
10:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Open 'til 11:00 p.m. Fri. & Sat.

**Haby's Alsatian Bakery**  
207 Hwy 90 E  
538-2118  
Mon. - Sat. 5:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Jimbo's Country Kitchen**  
1314 Hwy 90 W  
538-2238  
11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Open 'til 10:00 p.m. Fri. & Sat.

**La Normandie**  
1302 Fiorella  
538-3070  
San Antonio No. 210/681-4038  
Lunch Wed. - Sun. 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Dinner Wed. - Sun. 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Larry's Restaurant & Bakery**  
810 Hwy 90 W  
538-2595  
5:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Linh's Chinese Restaurant**  
901 Hwy 90 W  
538-2235  
Lunch Mon. - Sat. 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Dinner Mon. - Sat. 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

**Margie's Restaurant**  
1007 Hwy 90 W  
538-3087  
4:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Mona's Taco House**  
803 Hwy 90 E  
538-9265  
Breakfast Only

**Pete's Bar-B-Q**  
607 Hwy 90 W  
538-2829  
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Rocky J's**  
509 Hwy 90 E  
538-3431  
Lunch Tues.- Fri. 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Dinner Tues. - Sun. 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Sammy's Restaurant**  
202 Hwy 90 E  
538-2204  
6:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.  
Open 'til 11:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat

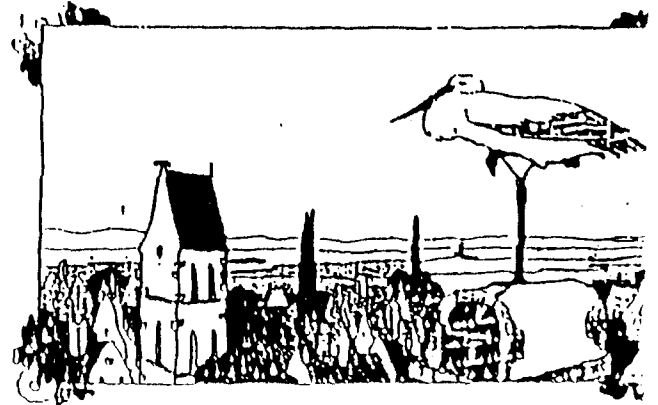
## **EXHIBIT L**

# Antiquing Through the "Little Alsace of Texas"

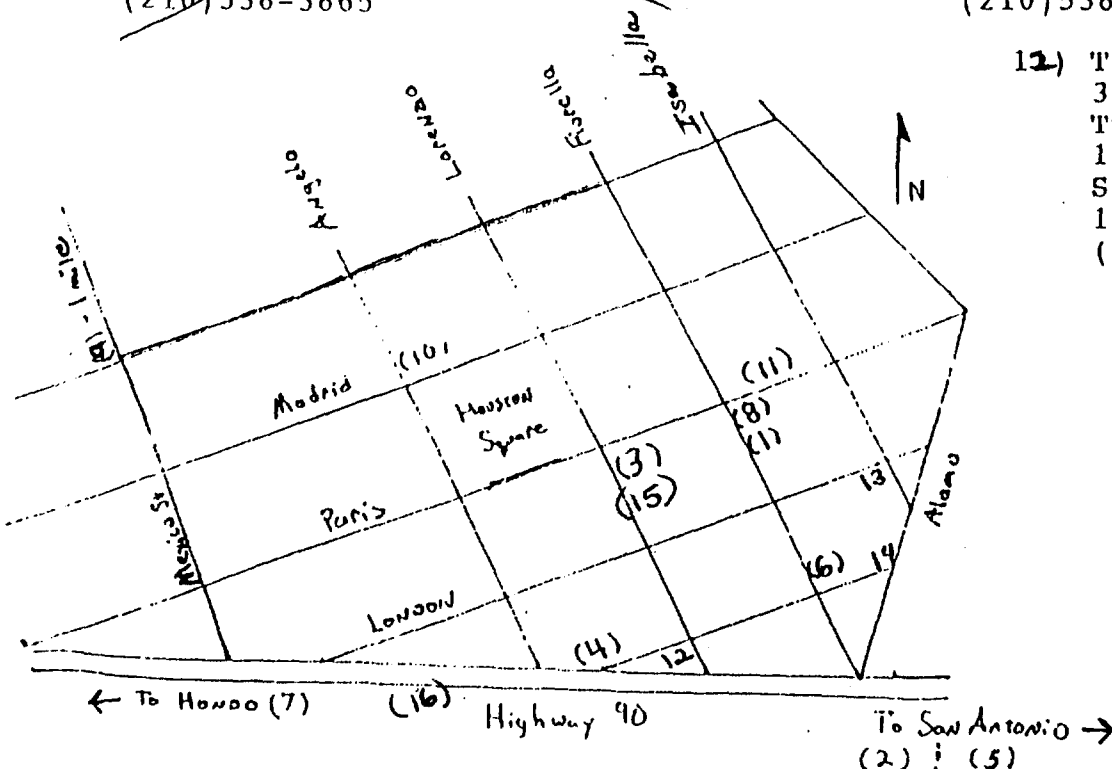
## CASTROVILLE, TEXAS

15 miles west of San Antonio on Highway 90

- 1) Alice's Antiques  
1213 Fiorella  
Mon. thru Sat. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
Sunday 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. (210)538-9318
- 2) House of Joy Antiques  
Hwy. 90 W-1 mile east of town  
Daily 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. (210)538-2426
- 3) Houston Square Antiques  
416 Paris Street on Houston Square  
Mon. thru Sat. 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
Sunday 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. (210)538-3782
- 4) Ima's Antiques  
509 Hwy 90 W  
Tues. thru Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
(210)538-3312
- 5) Manley's  
Hwy 90 E-3 miles east of town  
Daily 10 a.m.- 5p.m. (210)762-3316
- 6) The Attic  
1105 Fiorella  
Daily 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. (210)538-9602
- 7) The Furniture Barn  
Hwy 90 W-1 mile west of town  
Tues. thru Sat 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.  
Sun. and Mon. by chance or appt.  
(210)538-3865



- 8) The Market Place  
1215 Fiorella  
Daily 10:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
(210)538-3350
- 9) Medina Valley Greenhouses  
"Everything from Cactus to Or  
1 Mile N of 90 on Mexico St  
On Old River Road  
Daily 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
(210)538-2298
- 10) Vick's Castroville Emporium  
515 Madrid on Houston Square  
Tues. thru Sat. 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
(210)538-3115



- 12) The Cottage  
308 Paris  
Tues. thru Sat.  
10 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
Sun. & Mon.  
11:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
(210)538-9713

13) Cornucopia 931-9014

- 13) Old Dust Antiques  
931-2792

14) Peddler

- (15) Old Post Office
- (16) Treasures From  
The Past

## CASTROVILLE ANTIQUE SHOW

The Castroville Antique Show was established in 1981 and is held twice a year at Koenig Park, a scenic site on the banks of the Medina River. The Spring show takes place on the third weekend of May and the fall show occurs the last full weekend in September.

The dance hall and the large pavillion house exhibitors from throughout the United States featuring American Country antiques, folk art, period furniture, linens, quilts, vintage clothing, estate jewelry, antique toys, advertising and decorative accessories. You'll find these exhibtors have gathered the very best in Americana to show and sell.

The setting creates a sense of excitment as you are welcomed with the sounds of an Oompha Band and the ringing hammer of a blacksmith.

On Antique Show weekends you will find many other activities and events to attend such as Home Tours, Baked Goods Sales, Landmark Inn Activities and our local antique shops and resturants.

## **EXHIBIT M**



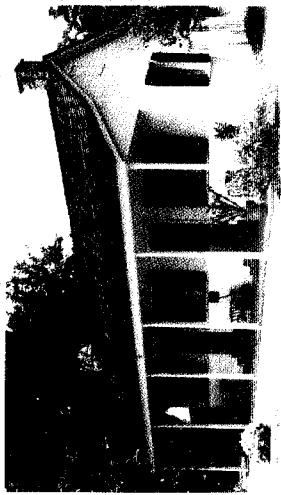
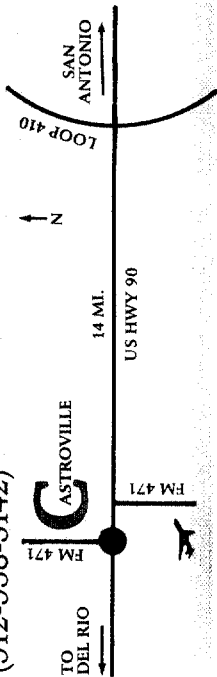


Castroville Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 572

Castroville, Texas 78009

(512-538-3142)



Castro Homestead

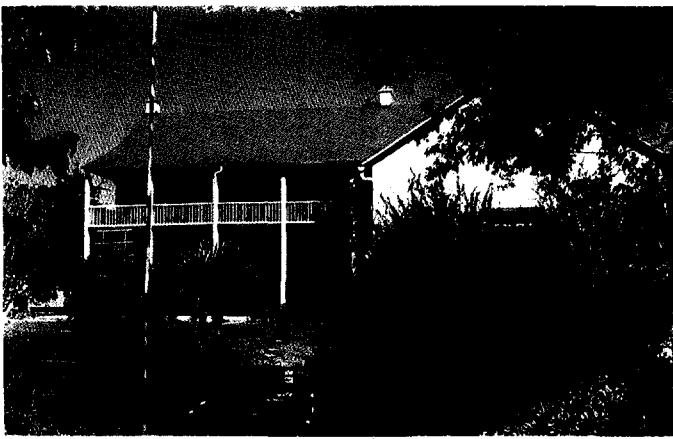
# CASTROVILLE

*"The Little Alsace of Texas"*



*"The Alsatian Dancers of Texas"*

**CASTROVILLE** — Proud of its Alsatian Heritage, is located on the banks of the sleepy, winding Medina River.



**LANDMARK INN — STATE HISTORIC SITE** Built 1849 — Donated to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 1974, by Ruth Lawler.



**ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH** — Built in 1868, Gothic style of native limestone.

## **KUM SAH CASTROVILLE VENGAN A VER CASTROVILLE VIEN VOIRE CASTROVILLE COME SEE CASTROVILLE**



**Regional Park Swimming Pool**



We think prefabricated houses are something new, but here is a beautiful home shipped precut and fitted by Sears Roebuck, circa 1911.

If one of these sounds familiar, you will be at home in Castroville. If they all seem strange, we will try our best to make you feel at home anyway! You will see signs proclaiming us to be "The Little Alsace of Texas," which takes us back to our beginnings.

Henri Castro was a gentleman of French birth, Portuguese ancestry, Jewish faith, and American citizenship; and he was among the first to foresee the eventual value of Texas real estate. He contracted with the Republic of Texas to bring in settlers (taxpayers) in exchange for a large grant of land between San Antonio and the Rio Grande. He was most successful in getting recruits from the Rhine Valley, particularly from the French province of Alsace. He was second only to Stephen F. Austin in the number of settlers he brought to Texas.

In September of 1844 the colonists established the town of Castroville in a scenic bend of the Medina River. They built their houses from stone and timber found close at hand, and the unsymmetrical roof lines are reminiscent of the homes they had left behind. Nearly 100 of these unique dwellings still survive, some still used by descendants of the original builders. The entire old part of town is now a National Historic District.

Castroville is proud of its history and of its heritage that now combines the cultures of several ethnic groups, and we are happy to share them with visitors. Ask at the Chamber of Commerce or at almost any business for a copy of our free Visitor's Guide; it will answer many of your questions and will whet your appetite to know more. It has a map showing the locations of the old houses, with a suggested walking tour of some of the most interesting. Another map will direct you to excellent restaurants, comfortable lodging, antique shops, and businesses specializing in almost everything.

We urge that you stay a few days and make Castroville your hub of sightseeing in South Central Texas. Medina Lake is 15 miles away and is famous for fishing and water sports. San Antonio is just 20 miles of 4-lane highway away, with all of its military bases, historic sights, cultural and amusement attractions, and everything that goes to make it one of America's four most unique cities. After a day of cosmopolitan excitement you can come back to Castroville, go for a swim, and just relax!

**TEXAS FRIENDLY SPOKEN HERE!**



The JOHN MERIAN HOUSE  
Owned by Dr. & Mrs. Woodrow Sharp

## GENERAL INFORMATION

*Castroville boasts of its:*

- Library — Extensive studies in genealogy and oral history — Texana Collection
- Regional Park — Riverside picnic grounds, Olympic-size swimming pool, pavilions, RV hookups, camping, tennis court, volleyball
- Landmark Inn and Grist Mill — Texas Historic Site — 8 rooms available for overnight guests, tours
- Castroville Municipal Airport  
Transportation: Kerrville Bus Lines
- 97 Historic Homes and Buildings
- Active Chamber of Commerce
- Motels, bed & breakfasts, and fine dining
- Many antique, arts and crafts shops

**EXHIBIT N**

CASTRO GARDEN CLUB'S  
*PIONEER CASTROVILLE HOMES*

A book containing information on over 55 of the old homes of Castroville that have been awarded PCH and SCH Markers, and other historical and anecdotal material about Castroville and its early settlers.

ARTWORK BY

*LORNA FRANCIS*

For more information call 1-210-538-2633 or write  
Castro Garden Club, P.O. Box 10,  
Castroville, Texas 78009

## MEDINA VALLEY GREENHOUSES

To the person interested in plants, Castroville offers a unique experience. Medina Valley Greenhouses, written up in "Texas Monthly" magazine, is a nursery that specializes in variety. Their motto is "Everything From Cactus To Orchids," and the place is sometimes described as a school teacher's hobby that got out of hand.

Many, many beautiful and unusual plants are simply not available in the commercial nursery trade. They are found only in private gardens and in small individually-operated nurseries. Over the years, Mary Margaret Burges has enlivened her vacation travels by seeking out these places to find plants for her collection. They grew and multiplied until she had to open a nursery to take care of the overflow. Some of the plants, including the antique roses, are of considerable historical interest.

Mrs. Burges received a special award for her long-time support of the xeriscape concept; this is a program of water conservation through creative landscaping. Thus, native plants are a specialty, along with other species adapted to the local semi-arid conditions. These range from bedding plants to shrubs to full-sized trees and include both perennials and self-seeding annuals. Many of the low-maintenance plants are also herbs, and are useful as well as ornamental. Most herbs are basically "wild" plants, and the extensive collection is of special interest to gourmet cooks; it includes a number of varieties of mint, for one example.

One room of the greenhouse is devoted to cactus, euphorbias, aloes and other desert plants. The rest are filled with orchids and other tropicals. One whole wall of the main greenhouse is faced with honeycomb rocks, in which are planted orchids, bromeliads, hoyas and ferns to produce a striking rain forest effect.

The greenhouse itself is set into the side of a hill to protect it from cold winter winds. The cypress timbers from which it is built were the staves of a large brewing vat at San Antonio's Pearl Brewery before prohibition. After World War I, Mrs. Burges' father bought the vat for use as a water tank on his farm; forty years later the wood was built into the greenhouse. The old carpenter who did the work swore he could still smell the beer when his saw bit into the wood!

Mrs. Burges is a Texas Certified Nursery Professional, ready to give expert help to the plant shopper. Medina Valley Greenhouses is located just northwest of Castroville on the scenic Old River Road (CR-477). Hours are 9 - 5 daily; Metro tel. 210-931-2298.

CASTRO GARDEN CLUB  
P.O. Box 10  
Castroville, TX 78009

Dear Friends:

The Castro Garden Club would be delighted to have you accept our invitation to our "tour of homes." We know you would find it to be a lovely way to spend the day. You will step into the past on a tour of historic Castroville! Available the year around, each tour is unique and delightful. Our tour guides will conduct your group through three historic homes and beautiful old St. Louis Catholic Church. We guide your party, give you the history of the settlement of the town and surrounding area, and entertain you with tales about the houses, the pioneers, and the Indians.

Minimum tour group - 15 persons. Cost - \$7.00 per person. A deposit of \$3.00 per person reserves a date. Deposit is refundable through two weeks prior to tour date, or if the Castro Garden Club cancels the tour at any time for any reason. Balance is due day of tour.

Tours are scheduled on a first-come basis, so make arrangements as early as possible. Tours are available Monday through Friday, but not on holidays. Please indicate first and second choices of dates. Meeting place is Landmark Inn State Historic Site. Suggested starting time is 10:00 a.m., which allows some travel time plus ample time to enjoy the tour before lunch.

Castro Garden Club, homeowners of the historic homes, and the St. Louis Catholic Church accept no responsibility for accidents.

Castro Garden Club also provides guides for step-on and other tours.

For further information, call (210) <sup>931</sup>████-2298, 538-2633, or 538-2029.

Following your tour you may wish to have lunch at one of our excellent restaurants - see the Visitor's Guide. Reservations for groups are appreciated. Take in our antique shops. Visit Landmark Inn; call their office (████-2133) to let them know you're coming!

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Group requesting tour

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Person coordinating tour

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Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred date and time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate date and time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & address to which confirmation can be sent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deposit enclosed